



Illinois Department of Transportation

Diversity Steering Committee Formed

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has formed a Diversity Steering Committee to help improve diversity among contractors and employees working for IDOT. The committee's main priority is to develop strategies to improve service and responsiveness to small businesses and individuals seeking to do business or become employed in the transportation industry, and work throughout IDOT to assist in implementing those strategies.

The committee includes IDOT executive staff members from the Office of the Secretary, Division of Highways, Office of Finance and Administration, Office of Chief Counsel, Bureau of Civil Rights, Office of Business and Workforce Diversity and the Office of Communications.

Diversity Matters!

MARCH 2011

Diversity Matters! is a new publication by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) designed to highlight new and existing programs and issues of interest to disadvantaged businesses, and to inform small businesses and individuals about contracting and job opportunities. *Diversity Matters!* provides information about the many ways in which IDOT is addressing diversity needs and issues in the workplace every day.

Future publications will include letting information, mentoring and scholarship opportunities, upcoming Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs and events, and details about the 2011 construction season. We hope *Diversity Matters!* will educate and serve as a reliable resource for all who have an interest in the workings of state government.

Target Market's First Letting

The Target Market section of Senate Bill 51 (Public Act 96-0975) became effective on January 1, 2011, and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has launched a Target Market Program to help achieve diversity goals outlined in this new law.

On February 25, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) held its first special letting for project contracts under the program.

To assist minority-owned and women-owned firms in the Target Market Program, IDOT is waiving bid bond requirements for all Target Market contracts. In addition, the department will extend the contract award period from the current 45 days to 60 days to allow additional time for qualified firms to complete IDOT contracting requirements.

IDOT anticipates about \$103.5 million in state-only

funds to be available for the entire Target Market Program in Calendar Year 2011. The department's goal for Target Market project awards is \$31 million. The department's aspirational goal for minority-owned and women-owned firms is 22.77 percent of the department's total construction project work.

For more information about the Target Market Program and process, visit the IDOT Target Market web site at www.dot.il.gov/targetmarket/

Recruitment Team Hits the Road

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) engineer recruitment team is on the road again, searching for the best and brightest young candidates in the engineering field. The department's goal is to diversify the civil engineering applicant pool, and the recruitment team has traveled beyond Illinois borders to visit member schools with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities that have Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited civil engineering

programs. Three trips have been completed with 48 interviews conducted at the following schools: University of Houston, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, University of Central Florida and Florida Atlantic University. Two more trips are scheduled during the Spring 2011 recruitment season, and applications will be accepted through April 15, 2011.

The department's in-state recruitment efforts include

the seven Illinois universities with ABET accredited civil engineering programs. The department emphasizes recruitment of students from the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers. Recruiters will also attend career fairs and conduct information sessions for these student chapters throughout the month of March. This multi-layered approach is designed to fulfill the IDOT goal of attracting a diverse and qualified workforce.

Honoring the Legacy of a Genuine Civil Rights Advocate



Elbert Simon, Civil Rights officer for the Illinois Department of Transportation from 2004 to 2010, died on December 6, 2010 a few months after retiring from IDOT. Elbert was an effective, lifelong advocate for the preservation of justice and equality. His long and distinguished career in public service included 42 years with the U.S. Postal Service. Elbert's bold, straightforward and, at times, audacious style of activism was always thought-provoking and served as a staple in defending and protecting the rights of IDOT employees to ensure justice and equality. A prime example of his dedication is the innovative program he began at IDOT to better serve persons with mental and physical disabilities by providing job opportunities to work for IDOT and, in turn, serve the people of Illinois. His program has grown to include more than 100 young people, some with severe disabilities, and has been recognized in Illinois and across the nation as a creative and effective model program. Elbert will be long remembered for his easy-going manner and relaxed sense of humor, which made him an even more effective public servant and advocate of equal rights.

Build Your Future Conference

The Illinois Department of Transportation, and Caterpillar Inc., recently held the 2011 "Build Your Future Conference" at the Caterpillar Demonstration & Learning Center in Edwards, IL. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood served as the keynote speaker for this event, which brought IDOT and Caterpillar leaders together with Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms, as well as prime contractors and consultants. It is an opportunity for firms to attend workshops and network with other contractors and see the Caterpillar product demonstration. This event also serves as a forum for IDOT and Caterpillar leaders to discuss upcoming programs and initiatives. Approximately 350 people attended this year, making this 2011 event the best attended of the three that have been held to date. We look forward to your participation at the next IDOT/Cat Build Your Future Conference!

Target Market Special Letting Notice - April 1, 2011

The Illinois Department of Transportation is requesting offers in the form of sealed bids from responsible contractors to secure performance of highway work by contract. Sealed bids for the contract item described can be sent to: Mr. Jim Layden, Harry R. Hanley Building, Room 326, 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62764, (217) 782-7806, Fax: (217) 785-1141, TDD: (217) 524-4875,

Jim.Layden@illinois.gov

The notice of letting is the official publication and invitation for construction bids by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Highways, Division of Aeronautics, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For additional details about the special letting or for other letting and bidding information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.

Current Procurement Opportunity

Reference Number:	22020762
Request ID:	11-57147
Agency Reference Number:	12-D1-1
Agency:	DOT - Transportation
Title:	District I Bottled Water service
Date First Offered	02/15/2011
Small Business Set-Aside:	No
Does this solicitation include a BEP Requirement	No

This solicitation is to procure a Vendor to supply Bottled Water and Dispensers on an "as needed" basis for various locations, stationary and portable, that do not have portable water throughout the District I region. The locations are in Chicago and the collar counties.

To register or for more information about procurement opportunities, visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us

Student Job Opportunity

The Illinois Department of Transportation will post a student employment opportunity on the department's website at <http://www.dot.state.il.us/techapp/internships.html> from April 4 through April 15. The Summer Technical Program, which tentatively runs May 16 through August 31, is for students who have completed a minimum of one year (30 semester hrs, 45 qtr. hrs credit) of college courses in engineering to four or more years in engineering. The Summer Non-Engineering Program is for high school students who are 18 years or older and students who are attending or have completed four or more years of college in areas other than engineering. For additional information, visit our website or call 217-782-5594.

Questions/Comments: DOT.Diversity@illinois.gov